What is Claimed:

1.   1.   A tool for preparing the vertebral bodies for an implant
2. comprising:
3.   a cutter having,
4.   a forked end having two tines,
5.   a first cutting blade located on an inner side of each of
6.   the tines, and
7.   a second cutting blade located on an outer side of each
8.   of the tines.

1.   2.   The tool according to claim 1 wherein the first cutting blades are
2. inboard of the second cutting blades.

1.   3.   The tool according to claim 1 wherein the second cutting blades
2. are placed further apart than the first cutting blades.

1.   4.   The tool according to claim 1 wherein the two tines have
2. beveled leading edges.

1.   5.   The tool according to claim 1 further having a blade protector.

1.   6.   The tool according to claim 5 wherein the blade protector is
2. retractable.

1.   7.   The tool according to claim 1 wherein the upper cutting blades
2. are coplanar with the inner side of each tine.

1.   8.   The tool according to claim 1 wherein the first pair of cutting
2. blades are coplanar with the outer side of each tine.

1.   9.   The tool according to claim 1 wherein the first and second pairs
2. of blades are positioned and adapted to bypass nerves.

1   10.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the tines have inboard and outboard
2 beveled surfaces that converge and the upper cutting blades have surfaces
3 that are continuous with the inboard beveled surfaces and the lower cutting
4 blades have surfaces that are continuous with the outboard beveled surfaces.

1   11.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the first pair of cutting blades are
2 upper cutting blades and the second pair of cutting blades are lower cutting
3 blades.

1   12.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the second pair of cutting blades are
2 lower cutting blades positioned and adapted to bypass nerves.

1   13.   A tool for preparing the vertebral bodies for an implant
2 comprising:
3   a cutter having,
4   a forked end having two tines, and
5   an upper cutting blade located on an inner side of each of
6   the tines.

1   14.   The tool according to claim 13, the cutter further comprising:
2   a lower cutting blade located on an outer side of each of
3   the tines.

1   15.   The tool according to claim 13 wherein the tool has a handle at
2 a distal end.

1   16.   The tool according to claim 15 wherein the handle is a
2 removable handle.

1   17.   The tool according to claim 13 wherein the two tines have
2 beveled leading edges.

1   18.   The tool according to claim 13 further having a blade protector.

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1   19.   The tool according to claim 18 wherein the blade protector is
2   retractable.

1   20.   The tool according to claim 13 wherein the upper cutting blades
2   are coplanar with an inner surface of each tine.

1   21.   The tool according to claim 14 wherein the lower cutting blades
2   are coplanar with an outer surface of each tine.

1   22.   The tool according to claim 14 wherein the upper and lower
2   blades are positioned and adapted to bypass a pair of nerves.

1   23.   A tool for preparing the vertebral bodies for an implant
2   comprising:
3   a cutter having,
4   a forked end having two tines, and
5   a lower cutting blade located on an outer side of each of
6   the tines.

1   24.   The tool according to claim 23, the cutter further comprising:
2   an upper cutting blade located on an inner side of each of
3   the tines.

1   25.   The tool according to claim 24 wherein the upper cutting blades
2   are inboard of the lower cutting blades.

1   26.   The tool according to claim 24 wherein the lower cutting blades
2   are spread further apart than the upper cutting blades.

1   27.   The tool according to claim 23 wherein the two tines have
2   beveled lead in edges.

1   28.   The tool according to claim 23 further having a blade protector.

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1   29.   The tool according to claim 28 wherein the blade protector is
2   retractable.

1   30.   The tool according to claim 24 wherein the upper cutting blades
2   are coplanar with the inner side of each tine.

1   31.   The tool according to claim 23 wherein the lower cutting blades
2   are coplanar with the outer side of each tine.

1   32.   The tool according to claim 24 wherein the upper and lower
2   blades are positioned and adapted to bypass a pair of nerves.

1   33.   A method of implanting an artificial disk between adjacent
2   vertebrae comprising the steps of:
3   accessing first and second adjacent vertebrae;
4   simultaneously preparing a first pair of slots in the first
5   vertebra and a second pair of slots in the second vertebra; and
6   implanting keels of the artificial disk in the first pair of
7   slots and in the second pair of slots.

1   34.   The method of claim 33 including the step of:
2   preparing the first pair of slots to be closer together than
3   the second pair of slots.

1   35.   The method of claim 33 including the step of:
2   preparing the first pair of slots to be inboard of the second
3   pair of slots.

1   36.   The method of claim 33 including the step of using a tool with
2   first and second tines that are positioned in the disk space between the first
3   and second vertebrae with a first blade that creates one of the first slots
4   located on an upper surface of each tine and a second blade that can create
5   one of the second slots located on a lower surface of each tine.

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1   37.   The method of claim 33 wherein the implant includes a first pair

2   of upper and lower implant parts and a second pair of upper and lower implant

3   parts, including the steps of:

4   using a tool to hold the first pair of implants and placing

5   the first pair of implants simultaneously in one of the first pair of

6   slots and one of the second pair of slots; and

7   using a tool to hold the second pair of implants and

8   placing the second pair of implants simultaneously in the other

9   of the first pair of slots and the other of the second pair of slots.

1   38.   A method of implanting an artificial disk between adjacent

2   vertebrae comprising the steps of:

3   accessing upper and lower adjacent vertebrae;

4   simultaneously preparing a first pair of inboard upper

5   slots in the upper vertebra and a second pair of outboard lower

6   slots in the second vertebra; and

7   implanting keels of the artificial disk in the first pair of

8   slots and in the second pair of slots.

1   39.   The method of claim 38 including the step of using a tool with

2   first and second tines that are positioned in the disk space between the first

3   and second vertebra with a first blade that creates one of the first slots located

4   on an upper surface of each tine and a second blade that can create one of

5   the second slots located on a lower surface of each tine.

1   40.   The method of claim 38 wherein the implant includes a first pair

2   of upper and lower implant parts and a second pair of upper and lower implant

3   parts, including the steps of:

4   using a tool to hold the first pair of implants and placing

5   the first pair of implants simultaneously in one of the first pair of

6   slots and one of the second pair of slots; and

7   using a tool to hold the second pair of implants and

8   placing the second pair of implants simultaneously in the other

9   of the first pair of slots and the other of the second pair of slots.

1   41.   A kit for installing an intervertebral implant including:

2   an implant having an upper part and a lower part;

3   a cutting tool; and

4   an implanting insertion tool.

1   42.   The kit of claim 41 including the cutting tool and further including

2 first and second tines with an upper cutter on each tine and a lower cutter on

3 each tine, with the upper cutters located inboard of the lower cutters.

1   43.   The kit of claim 41 including the implant and further including a

2 pair of upper and lower parts on the implant and a second pair of upper and

3 lower parts, wherein the implant insertion tool includes a device that can hold

4 and insert the first pair of upper and lower parts.

1   44.   The kit of claim 43 including another implant insertion tool that

2 can hold and insert the second pair of upper and lower parts.

1   45.   The kit of claim 41 wherein the implant includes a ball and

2 socket structure.

1   46.   The kit of claim 41 wherein the implant includes a ball and

2 socket structure as part of the upper and lower parts.

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